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Island Citizens Association

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VOL. 1 NO. 1

NOVEMBER, 1973

PRICE - 15c

A PUBLICATION OF THE ISLAND CITIZEN'S ASSOCIATION — PO BOX 68 PEAKS ISLAND 04108

Island Association Forms For Transportation, Other Services

The Island Citizens' Association, a non-profit organization, was formed as a result of the recent and lengthy transportation problem. Island residents, Greg Scandlen and Mike Day, initiated a movement to gather island people at a meeting a few weeks ago in an attempt to create a better transportation opportunity for Peaks Island.

Not only did the meeting result in an effort to provide more efficient and effective transportation but the enthusiasm generated resulted in the birth of this newsletter and a strong desire to acquaint residents with the association's progress and activities and other items of interest to islanders.

With the help of COMBAT attorney Howard Reben, the Island Citizen's Association became a reality. Many committees were formed to draw by-laws, to investigate alternative ferry service and to gather information relative to the welfare of residents.

The Magnum II, owned and operated by Captain Rodney Ross, is being overhauled for possible service between Peaks Island



the Magnum II

and Portland. The vessel is equipped with radar, galley the necessary safety measures such as life preservers and rafts, and is capable of carrying 100 passengers.

An application to the Public Utilities Commission to allow such service is being prepared by attorney Reben. A hearing for the application is expected to be set in the near future. We urge all to attend this public hearing, the date of which will be announced.

Necessary preparations are also being made in anticipation of the special session of the Legislature relative to transportation service in Casco Bay.

Much work needs to be done. Hopefully, the trans-

portation problems which have plagued the Casco Bay islands for so long can be solved in the near future.

The Island Citizens' Association does not have all the answers. We are simply attempting to resolve island problems with available resources. Island trends, current island problems and the future of Peaks Island are foremost in our minds. We need your help, advice and participation. An initiation fee of \$2.00 will help the association to promote the necessary cultural, educational and employment opportunities for island people.

-by Bruce Lincoln-

peaks island currents

Compiled By Dorothy Wright.

NOVEMBER 6 The scouts will hold their meeting at St. Christopher Hall Jr. Scouts will meet at 3:15. Cadet Scouts will meet at 4:00 pm

NOVEMBER 9 The Brackett Memorial Church Choir will put on a cantata (Night of Miracle) at 3:00pm.

NOVEMBER 11 The Dramatic Club of Peaks Island Women's Council plan a dress rehearsal of their production "Just A Little Mistake". This will be presented at the Deering Pavilion for the elderly. Following the production, the "Music Club" under the supervision of Mr. Francis Sullivan of Peaks Island will render several old-time selections on the guitar.



NOVEMBER 28 - Senior Citizens Center will hold an annual Thanksgiving Day party at 12:30 pm

DAY CARE CENTER workers have attended a state-wide conference on child care in Augusta.

OFFICER Rod Gregor, from the "Officer Friendly" program goes to the Island schools to teach the children about safety. He also plays the guitar and sings songs about safety. The "Officer Friendly" program is sponsored by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation.



DECEMBER 2 at 2:00 pm the annual Christmas Coffee will be held at the Parish Hall under the direction of the Women's Council. This year the high light of the program will be a production presented for the first time by the newly formed Dramatic Club. This is open to all who wish to spend a pleasant afternoon. Refreshments will be served.

DECEMBER 12 Scout Troop 769 will will sing at the lighting of the Christmas tree on Monument Square at 3:15

DECEMBER 16 Mrs Jean Bachman will have a Christmas program at the Brackett Memorial Church. She is the wife of Rev. John Bachman.

Mr. Winthrop Deane has retired from the Canal Bank after 13 years as trust officer. He was employed for the Merchant Bank of Boston for 29 years. He is also treasurer of the CBIDA. He is past president of St. Christopher Parish Council. He and his wife live on Island Avenue.

CHILDREN'S THEATER of Peaks Island is working on the play "Cross Wire". Little Players are directed by Holly DiBiase and Bunny Alves former players themselves.

NOTICES
for this column should
be submitted to Dorothy
Wright - 766-5093 or
Box 68 Peaks Island
04108

NOVEMBER 16 The Randall-McVane Post of the American Legion will hold its annual Turkey Shoot at the Peaks Island Legion Home at 8:00pm. Jimmy Brown has tickets.

NOVEMBER 17 - The United Methodist Women will have a fair from 11:00am to 3:pm. Luncheon will be served at 11:45 am

NOVEMBER 18 The Sunday School Children at Brackett Memorial Methodist Church will fix fruit baskets for about 20 shut-ins.

NOVEMBER 27 - Saint Christopher Women's Council meeting at 7:30pm. Following the program there will be the traditional Christmas party with Mrs. Rosemary Pyne in charge of the Christmas music.

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YOUNG FAMILIES are encouraged to attend The Brackett Memorial Methodist Church through the month of November. There will be two people to take care of the children while the parents are attending Church. They will have arts & crafts and stories for the children along with some entertaining film clips.

DID YOU KNOW? The Saint Christopher's library is open to everyone every day. It contains a reference section which includes locally assembled scrapbooks, works of fiction and non-fiction, all the latest books on the market and a whole section of children's books. There are also science exhibits for children. Books may be taken out by anyone and the honor system is used (just sign the books in and out). The library is located in the choir section of the Church loft.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES St. Christopher's Catholic Church

SUNDAY MASSES

Peaks Island -----
Sunday at 9:00a.m.
Saturday at 7:00p.m.

Long Island -----
Sunday at 11:00a.m.
Saturday at 4:30 p.m.
(Summer Only)

Great Diamond -----
Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
(Summer Only)

Cliff Island -----
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
(Summer Only)

DAILY MASSES

7:15 at St. Joseph's Convent

CBL Plagued By Strikes

Since 1959 Takeover

— Susan Scandlen

Commercial ferries have plied the waters of Casco Bay between Peaks Island and Portland on a fairly regular basis since 1826. While doing research for this article in the newspaper file of the Portland Public Library, I found no reference to labor discord with any of the many previous ferry companies. However, if anyone out there knows of a case not covered here, she or he is welcome to have a day in print. For this article, I will start where the newspapers started, with a brief strike in February, 1959, two months after Casco Bay Lines was bought by Norman Thomas and Peter McLaughlin.

This first walkout delayed the 7:30 boat to Peaks for only 45 minutes. The dispute was over wages and the two parties soon reached an agreement. However, a major strike occurred only a few months later. One of the strikers said then that "a few months ago, they promised us a raise and then did nothing about it." Twenty-five captains, pursers, engineers, and deckhands again made wage demands of Peter McLaughlin, asking that they take effect immediately, "or not a boat moves."

The boatmen were asking for raises in all four job classifications on their 54-hour per week pay scale. Present wages were \$60. a week for captains, \$43 a week for

pursers, and \$41 for deckhands. They were asking for \$66. for captains, with \$1.25 per hour overtime; \$48. per week for pursers with \$1.00 an hour overtime, and \$45. a week for deckhands, with \$.90 an hour overtime. Other demands included double time on holidays and the seventh day a week worked, a full day's pay for work between 5 P.M. and midnight, and no loss of time for lunch hours.

Modest demands, even at the prices of 14 years ago. There was island support for the strikers then, too. Dr.

Joseph S. White, an island resident and candidate for City Council that year said, "We've been badly treated by the line, the wages they offer the men are ridiculously low... Maybe the solution would be a corporation to run our own ferry from the Portland municipal slip to the island." Sound familiar?

No CBL boats ran to the islands during the 25-hour long strike. People depended on private boats to get them back and forth, at quite a risk to the boat owners. The Coast Guard kept busy boarding and inspecting some 35 small craft during the strike. Eight of their owners were cited for Coast Guard violations, and their names sent

Continued On Page 7

These Island Businesses Salute The Casco Bay Breeze And Wish You Good Luck

INN ON PEAKS

Centennial St. 766-5525

HOWARD'S MARKET

Island Ave. 766-9714

WEBBER'S STORE

Island Ave. 766-2902

PLANTE'S PEAKS ISLAND MARINA

Island Ave 766-2508

WOODBURY'S DAIRY BAR

Island Ave. 766-2929

FEENEY'S MARKET

Seashore Ave. 766-9701

WHITTON'S SERVICE CENTER

Island Ave. 766-2722

JACKSON & CASEY

PLUMBING & HEATING
Evergreen Ave. 766-2817

PORTHOLE RESTAURANT

Custom House Wharf
Open 8 am to 5:30 pm

DOREEN McCANN'S DANCING SCHOOL

Dial 766-2727

SEA SIDE SHOP

HARDWARE & SOUVENIERS
Island Avenue 766-2055

Island Association: How It Works

by Greg Scandlen

Although the Island Citizens' Association came together to solve the problem of safe, reliable and inexpensive transportation, its job doesn't have to be limited to that. This newspaper is an example of the ability of the ICA to solve many of the problems facing all the people on the island. Other ideas have already been raised, such as a bicycle rental service for the island, a credit union, an island archives to capture some of the history of the Casco Bay Islands, a realistic

zoning plan for the island, and a host of other ideas which would work for the good of all island residents.

This newspaper is the first concrete project of the association. It is designed to be self-sufficient, meaning that the advertising and newsstand sales will pay for all the costs of publication. If there is a surplus of money, it will either go into improving the paper or into the general fund of the organization. If there is a

deficit, it will be made up from money in the general fund.

The operation of the boat will work in the same way. The goal is to make it self-sufficient from the first day of operation. The revenue will come entirely from ticket sales (35¢ one way) and refreshment sales (coffee and doughnuts will be served on the boat.) The expenses are strung out in such a way that long term expenses such as engine maintenance, won't need money until the number of riders grows enough to cover it. As the riders increase, the service can increase as well. As with the newspaper, the general fund will be touched only in cases of surplus or deficit.

The general fund is made up of membership dues, donations, fund-raising events, and special membership assessments, if any.. General expenses of the organization will be paid from this fund. These include legal fees, meeting hall rental, lobbying costs and other incidental expenses.

Each operation of the organization will be supervised by a standing committee which will be responsible to the membership and the board of directors. If any members have ideas they would like to see implemented, they will be welcome to bring it up at a meeting.



wildlife

by Putzi Williams

Anyone the least conscious of her (or his) surroundings will have realized that our island attracts large flocks of winter birds. Last winter when we put a large bird feeding station outside our kitchen window, each day brought new visitors. Blue jays are the first to come to mind because their raucous song would always announce them. There were cardinals, swamp sparrows, chickadees, goldfinches, nuthatches, two kinds of woodpeckers, starlings and one or two red polls.

This is a very pleasant form of bird watching, especially for those not hardy enough to tramp through the winter's woods, and it assures food supplies for the birds - a supplement to the wild nuts and berries they forage. If you should decide to put up a feeder, be sure to consider the fact that whatever birds you may attract will begin to depend on you. They may have given-up other territories to visit you and if you run out of food or simply forget to put it out, many birds may die.

Wild bird seed, like everyone else's food, is expensive, but there are some

economies you can make. The fat cut from your meat before or after it's cooked, or chilled bacon fat, placed inside a net, such as onions come in, and hung from a tree, or placed inside a not-too-deep hollow, will attract the suet eaters - chickadees, woodpeckers, etc. This is much cheaper than store-bought suet cakes. Pine cones covered with peanut butter, rolled in a mix of oat meal, cracked corn, raw rice and corn meal can be hung up near your suet bag, or set inside the feeder. Pumpkin and squash seed dried either on sheets of newspaper or in your oven make excellent feed for the large, strong-beaked birds. Eggshells, pulverized and mixed with grain or some peanut butter, provide grit and calcium. The cranberries strung for your Christmas tree are a welcome treat for bird friends. Likewise, bits of apple, chopped orange rind, or grapes. Even a bowl of warm mashed potatoes, left over from lunch, has gotten wide acceptance.

Once you get an idea of what your visitors like and crave, it's easy to become their good and nurturing friend. Just remember, to keep an eye on the food supply and you and they should have a pleasant winter together.

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St. Christopher's Holds Halloween Party



I'll be down to get you on a broomstick, honey,
Better be ready 'bout half past twelve;
We're going to dig and delve,
Better be there 'fore the haunts start groanin'
There'll be goblins and ghosts galore
Squirming all over the grave yard floor.
Gonna dance right out of my shroud
Gonna float on a dark green cloud
Tomorrow night at the mummy strutters ball.

to the tune of "The Darktown Strutters' Ball"
by Putsi Williams



Health Clinic Open To All Island Children

We have a child health clinic here on Peaks Island. It happens at the school gym on the third Tuesday of each month. This month, it will be held on November 20. All island residents under the age of 18 are eligible, regardless of income.

The clinic is staffed by a nurse, Joanne Pendexter, and a trained nurses aide, Elaine Simoneau. They give the usual series of infant shots, DPT, tetanus, oral polio, as well as handle more immediate problems such as ear infections, cuts, or colds. Families with pediatricians find that they are pleased to have the clinic supplement their care. I don't need to point out the convenience parents find in having the clinic take care of routine shots and medical problems, so that a trip into town isn't necessary

For the not-too-sick child, Joanne can prescribe medication. She will also refer to a doctor those who do not have one.

Although the clinic is intended for the use of children, adults who have not completed their oral polio series, or who need a tetanus shot, may receive them.

If you are planning to enroll your child in the clinic, you should call the Kennedy Park Health Station 773-1554, and ask for Joanne or Elaine. They will make up a health record for your child, or arrange with your pediatrician for a copy of the record. It's also a good idea to call the Kennedy Park Health Station in advance if your child is going to visit the clinic. This is so the nurses can bring your child's record with them that day. However,

if you have forgotten to call, or if something happens on clinic day, don't hesitate to bring your child in anyway. Nobody will be turned away.

Getting the clinic here was a real group effort of island parents, especially mothers of children at our Child Care Center, but it couldn't have been done without the advice and encouragement of Joanne Pendexter and Elaine Simoneau, our dedicated nurses. When you come to the clinic, please thank them for providing such a necessary service.

--CLIP and SAVE--

clinic dates coming up

November 20	February 19
December 18	March 19
January 15	April 16

Kennedy Park Health Station
773-1554

CASCO BAY LINES STRIKES

(continued)

to the Commander of the first Coast Guard District in Boston for action.

The strike was settled at 10A.M. July 4. McLaughlin said, "The company settled virtually on the terms demanded by the strikers...which were much more than we could afford. The reason I made the concession was due to our feeling of obligation to the people." At this time, a fare increase was pending before the Public Utilities Commission. It was granted on July 14, 1959.

By this time, bad feelings and distrust had already become well established between labor and management. McLaughlin, in agreeing to settle, had signed an informal memo, but a formal agreement had not yet been signed. It was rumored that he was backing down and was not going to keep his promise; however, apparently he did, as no more was made of the matter. Whether signing the agreement had anything to do with the PUC settlement is open for speculation; however, it is curious that the agreement was not signed until after the increase was granted by the PUC.

Another brief walkout occurred on August 3, 1961. A settlement was rapidly reached. A week later, on August 10th, McLaughlin changed his terms, saying that his agreement of the past week had been "temporary". The employees who had gone back to work on the basis of McLaughlin's promise, said they had no understanding that it was "temporary". McLaughlin's new proposal called for much lower raises, smaller overtime bonuses, and a cut in pay for engineers.

As a result of McLaughlin's backing down, a new

walkout was threatened, for midnight, August 11, 1961. Support for the strike expanded to include two dock workers and an office clerk. The strike was averted at the last minute when CBL and the crewmen agreed to submit to binding arbitration.

Casco Bay Lines first attempt to organize themselves precipitated the next labor trouble. On March 5, 1968, the Casco Bay Marine Association staged a four-hour walkout to protest the firing of one of their members, and CBL refusal to recognize their organization.

Captain Balzano of St. Lawrence Street said he was dismissed because his license was limited to daytime operation. But he had already been with CBL for three years, two as a deckhand and one as a skipper. "Now, suddenly, I'm told my license

isn't good enough. But it was good enough the past year, apparently," he said. The Casco Bay Marine Association charged that Balzano was discharged for union activities.

Another employee, a vice-president of the CBMA, was also fired after a meeting in which he, Richard Thurlow, president of the organization, and the other vice president visited McLaughlin to ask for recognition of the CBMA.

This strike was also actively supported by islanders, as it was reported that schoolchildren made their own picket signs and helped picket with the strikers.

I was not able to discover the outcome of this incident. The fact that Richard Thurlow, president and leader of this union movement, is now general manager of Casco Bay Lines, offers food for thought.



LET US GIVE THANKS THIS

Thanksgiving

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This store is the first in the country to have horsemeat coldcuts

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GROUND MEAT \$.65 per lb.
(10 lbs. or more)
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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Island Citizens' Association will hold a public meeting on Thursday, November 15 at the Legion Hall. The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M.

All members should be sure to attend, as we will be voting to ratify the bylaws. Two new committees, a transportation committee and a fund-raising committee, will be appointed.

Interested non-members may attend, but only members may vote.

Ad rates for the Casco Bay Breeze are \$1.00 per column inch. If you would like to place an ad for your business or a classified ad, please call Susan Scandlen at 766-2074.

NEWS FLASH

The Cub Scouts will be holding a raffle for 100 gallons of oil, first prize; 50 gallons second prize and 25 gallons third prize. The drawing will be early in December. You may purchase chances from any Cub Scout parent.

CHILTON PAINT STORE

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Portland, Maine 04111
DIAL 772-5671

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OPEN HOUSE ON "MAGNUM" POSTPONED

Apologies to all who wanted to attend the Open House on the Magnum last Saturday, November 3. The high westerly winds made it impossible to tie up to the public float for any length of time.

Everyone will be pleased to know that the Magnum handled beautifully even under these conditions. In fact, the problem in tying up to the float was simply that the float wasn't stable enough to handle her. There would have been no trouble had we been allowed to tie up at the pier.

On the way back to Portland, we were able to assist a sailboat that was floundering in the heavy wind. Her crew came aboard to warm up with hot tea while we towed the small boat back to her mooring in South Portland. Even a day like that has its rewards.

The Magnum will be open for inspection as soon as we can get a day with good tides and calm weather.

If you want to join the Island Citizen's Association, fill out the coupon and return it along with \$2 for your initial membership fee. A membership card will be sent to you right away.

I.C.A. Membership
PO Box 68
Peaks Island, Me. 04108

Sounds Great! Here's my \$2 for the initial fee. Let me know when the next meeting will be. I'm interested in working with the following committees;
_____ Boat Operations; _____ Newspaper; _____ Fundraising; or
_____ Other.

Name _____

Address _____

If you would like to get *The Casco Bay Breeze* mailed to your home, fill out the coupon below and return it with \$1.50 for 12 issues. Otherwise it will be available at the Island stores and on the "Magnum"

Casco Bay Breeze
PO Box 68
Peaks Island, Me. 04108

Enclosed is my \$1.50 for the next 12 issues of *The Breeze*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____